

REMARKS

Claims 8-19 are pending in the application for the Examiner's review and consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 8-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over WO 98/24874 to Van Dijk ("Van Dijk") in view of United States Patent No. 4,264,365 to Sanders ("Sanders"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Van Dijk discloses a method of providing a coating comprising a dicarboxylic acid, preferably wherein the length of the carbon chain of the dicarboxylic acid is from C2 to C13. *See, e.g.* Van Dijk, page 2, lines 16-19 (Summary of the Invention). Van Dijk further discloses the process for making a tablet comprising the steps of forming a core... applying a coating material to the core, the coating material being dissolved in a solvent or water, and allowing the solvent or water to evaporate. *See, e.g.* Van Dijk, page 3, lines 1-8.

The Office Action alleges that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teaching of Van Dijk and Sanders into the objects of the instant application. Applicant respectfully submits that the references do not disclose all of the limitations of the present invention. Specifically, Van Dijk in view of Sanders does not teach a molten dicarboxylic acid and water characterized in that said composition comprises at least 1 g of water per 1,000 g of dicarboxylic acid.

Van Dijk discloses a composition comprising a dicarboxylic acid, preferably wherein the length of the carbon chain of the dicarboxylic acid is from C2 to C13. The process of the present invention discloses a molten composition comprising at least 1g of water per 1,000 g of dicarboxylic acid. *See, e.g.* Specification, claim 8. The present invention recognizes, as does Van Dijk, that solvent or water evaporates from the composition. *See, e.g.* Van Dijk, page 3, lines 1-8, and Specification, page 4, lines 18-20. However, the present invention discloses that it is necessary to add additional water to the molten dicarboxylic acid in order to produce the desired effect. *See, e.g.* Specification, page 4, lines 18-24. (The melting point of dicarboxylic acids, as disclosed in the Specification, is from 80°C to 200°C. *See, e.g.* Specification, page 5, lines 20-26.) The present invention maintains its composition of at least 1g of water per 1,000 g of molten dicarboxylic acid by continuing to add water to the composition of the present invention as needed. At the molten state, the water from the Van Dijk composition is evaporated away. Van Dijk does not disclose or suggest adding additional water to the compositions in order to maintain the concentration of at least 1 g of water per 1,000 g of dicarboxylic acid. Thus, Van Dijk does not disclose a molten dicarboxylic acid and water characterized in that said composition comprises at least 1 g of water

per 1,000 g of dicarboxylic acid. Therefore, Van Dijk does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation. Further, Sanders does not remedy the deficiencies of Van Dijk. At best, Sanders discloses that a small amount of water can act as a plasticizer and rheology modifying material without required drying during the setting step. It does not disclose or suggest a composition comprising molten dicarboxylic acid and water characterized in that said composition comprises at least 1 g of water per 1,000 g of dicarboxylic acid. Thus, the '978 reference does not disclose or suggest each and every limitation of the present invention. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

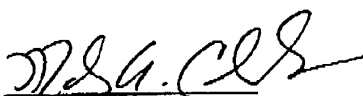
With regard to all claims not specifically mentioned, these are believed to be allowable not only in view of their dependency on their respective base claims and any intervening claims, but also for the totality of features recited therein.

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney for Applicant to arrange for a telephonic interview in an effort to expedite the prosecution of this matter.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested. No fees are believed to be due. If any required fees are due, please charge the applicable fees to Procter & Gamble Deposit Account No. 16-2480.

Respectfully submitted,

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